



## Facts about Career and Technical Education in Montana

Career and Technical Education prepares Montana K-12 students for a wide range of careers and post secondary education programs. Career and Technical Education courses are found in Montana's middle schools, high schools and career centers.

Career and Technical Education courses provide students with life and employment skills to make them highly desirable employees in today's modern workforce. Skills learned in K-12 Career and Technical Education courses prepare students to enter the workforce or to continue their education with a much higher degree of focus and direction for their career goals.

Montana has over 500 approved Career and Technical Education programs and over 800 certified teachers in Agriculture, Business, Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology, and Health Occupations. More than 160 Montana high schools participate in the federal Carl D. Perkins and state Career and Technical Education grant programs to support and improve their Career and Technical Education programs.

In addition to skills learned in Career and Technical Education courses, many Montana students gain additional technical and leadership skills through participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization. The seven Career and Technical Student Organizations with active Montana chapters are FFA; Business Professionals of America (BPA); DECA, An Association of Marketing Students; Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); SkillsUSA; and Technology Student Association (TSA).

### Agricultural Education



- ❖ Agriculture is one of Montana's largest industries. Agriculture Education provides learning opportunities for students in Ag Business, Ag Research, Animal Science, Aquaculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Leadership, Mechanics, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Wildlife Management and other related areas.
- ❖ Montana agricultural education has 78 approved programs with 4,600 enrolled students. 92% of these programs include co-curricular FFA chapters with over 2,500 enrolled members.

### Business and Marketing Education



- ❖ Today's business and marketing students learn to use the most current technology and business practices, including CISCO networking academies and Oracle academies. Walk into Hawk Enterprises in Bozeman High School (and other similar programs around the state) and you'll think you're in an executive office building.
- ❖ 164 of Montana's 173 public high schools have approved Business/Marketing education programs making it the most-offered CTE program in the state. These programs serve over 14,000 students in grades 9-12.
- ❖ Montana has two Career and Technical Student Organizations for the Business and Marketing programs: Business Professionals of America (BPA) and DECA. The 90 Montana BPA/DECA chapters provide additional business and marketing experience for nearly 1,400 students. Montana consistently has multiple top-ten competitive event placings at national BPA and DECA conferences.

### Health Occupations Education



- ❖ In only its second year with five programs and 212 students in 2003-04, Health Occupations is the newest Career and Technical Education program in Montana.
- ❖ Health Occupations is an area of tremendous occupational opportunity in large cities and small towns alike.
- ❖ There is a critical shortage of healthcare workers in Montana as well as nationally. The need for healthcare workers is increasing as Montana's population ages.
- ❖ Healthcare is one of the fastest growing economic segments in Montana and the US.
- ❖ The student organization associated with Health Occupations is Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). HOSA chapters have been formed in our high schools and post-secondary institutions.

## Family and Consumer Sciences Education



- ❖ Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education has three main focuses; family, career and community.
- ❖ Major FCS curriculum areas include Personal Family Resource Management; Nutrition and Wellness; Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation; Family and Community Services; Interior Furnishings; Parenting and Child Development; and Culinary Arts/Food Service Management.
- ❖ Montana has 115 approved FCS programs serving more than 9,000 students.
- ❖ Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is the student organization for Family and Consumer Sciences. In 2003-04 Montana had 68 affiliated FCCLA chapters with 1,200 members.

## Industrial Technology Education



- ❖ With 134 programs and 14,000 students, Industrial Technology Education is the second largest CTE program area in Montana.
- ❖ Industrial Technology includes the program areas of Industrial/Technology Education and Trade and Industrial Education.
- ❖ Industrial Technology occupations are some of the highest paying, most highly technical occupations in Montana.
- ❖ Studies have shown that many “how-to” manuals for entry-level industrial technology occupations have a higher readability level than most college text books.
- ❖ Montana has two Career and Technical Student Organizations for the Industrial Technology area. SkillsUSA and Technology Student Association (TSA) combined have over 500 secondary members in 40 chapters. Some of the Colleges of Technology and MSU-Northern have post-secondary chapters.

